

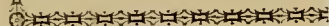




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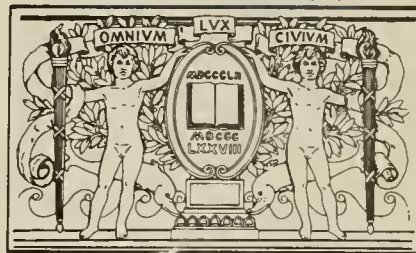


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Souvenir Portfolio *of*
Universalist Churches *in* Massachusetts



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1906

FINE ARTS DEPT

Fine Arts
P. M. Leavitt
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Introduction



IN the compilation of this portfolio the aim has been to make a collection of views that will give a fair idea of the external appearance of the various Universalist churches in Massachusetts.

Some years ago occasion arose to seek information as to the form and construction of one of the older churches of the denomination, and the inquiry was met by the declaration, often made with deep regret, that nothing in shape of a picture or drawing existed. In course of our inquiries we found an unexpected degree of interest among parties quite remote from the church, but professing the same faith. On other occasions we have been surprised at the interest shown by Universalists in the construction and arrangement of churches in distant towns, and so were led to believe that there existed a sentiment favorable to the publication of such a volume as here presented, both for historical reference, and on other grounds. The demands of business and the great cost, however, prevented any steps being taken in this direction until the present year. Last February

a preliminary canvass was made which resulted in revealing a strong sentiment in favor of the project, and we decided to compile a collection of views of the more prominent churches. To our surprise we found that but few good photographs for the purpose could be obtained. Many interested informed us that they much regretted to state that they knew of no suitable picture of their churches. The search became more and more interesting until it finally developed into a determination to make and issue a book containing a complete set of views of the Universalist churches of the State. In the research much time and money have been expended, hundreds of miles traversed, in many cases long journeys made on foot through mud and dust, over hill and dale, under burning suns and amid the flying snow.

About one-third of the views here shown have been procured for us by the resident clergymen or local friends of the societies. Another third has been purchased from the local photographers, in many cases being taken especially for this purpose; the remainder have been photographed personally by the compiler, who has, to arrange for this work, visited the exteriors (and in many cases the interiors) of seventy-five per cent of the churches here represented.

Himself of Universalist parents, the work has been of absorbing interest, and his chief hope is that the work may find a response in increased interest among the people of the faith in the welfare of neighboring as well as their own societies, and may encourage both pastors and people in making their places of worship and the precepts there taught known abroad as well as within the confines of the little community where they may be located. The Universalist faith stands for nothing if it does not bear an interest in the welfare of others, even greater than that we feel for ourselves.

The original plan contemplated only the engravings. The addition of the sketches was a later thought and was decided on upon the request of parties who thought such would add to the historical value of the publication.

To make this a complete history of the faith in Massachusetts was impossible, both on account of the expense, already very large, and of the size of a volume that would be required. Such a volume would require years of time and form a very bulky volume, but should such ever be attempted we trust that the records preserved by the publication of this portfolio will be found of assistance to the compiler.

Parishes Without Church Buildings

SOUTH ASHFIELD: Services are held here in a schoolhouse, the preaching being supplied by the pastor settled at Shelburne Falls. At present this pastorate is vacant.

BROOKLINE: The Universalist Society in Brookline worships at present in Pierce Hall, corner of Beacon and Harvard streets. This Society is at present a consolidation of the Shawmut Universalist Parish in Boston and the First Universalist Society in Brookline, whose place of worship was formerly at the corner of Washington and Cypress streets. A very fine lot of land has been purchased for a new church, which will be erected in the near future.

DUNSTABLE: Services here are maintained through the ministries of the Universalist pastors in Lowell. A Sunday School is maintained, and although the parish is very small, the people are very faithful.

LEYDEN: Services are held here in the summer time by the minister settled at Shelburne Falls. This place is remote from railroads and is sparsely populated. It is one of the hill towns of Massachusetts.

MALDEN SECOND: This Society was started as a branch of the First Parish, Malden, about eight years ago. Meetings are held in Powers Hall, and a Sunday School is maintained. The lot has been purchased for a new chapel, which will be built in the spring.

St. Paul's Church Palmer

IN 1858 a Universalist society was formed in Palmer and ministered to up to the war of '61 by "Father" Whittemore, Rev. H. R. Nye of Springfield, Rev. J. G. Adams of Worcester, Rev. John H. Willis, Rev. C. N. Fay, D.D., and Rev. N. T. Wright, father of Carrol D. Wright. During the war and the reconstruction period services were discontinued. In 1874 they were resumed and meetings held at halls and residences till '75 or '76, when a temporary home was furnished in Marshall W. Ward's new block on the present site of Memorial Hall. Here in Union Hall was the birth of the present organization. Upon the petition of sixteen persons St. Paul's parish was formed May 27, 1876. St. Paul's Church was organized the following day, with twenty-one members. Both organizations are now incorporated. In these early days Rev. A. J. Patterson, D.D., of Roxbury, officiated as pastor. First preaching in the new hall was by Prof. W. R. Shipman of Tufts College, Feb. 13, 1876, since which time services have been held regularly. Feb. 13, 1877, Rev. Charles Henry Eaton succeeded to the pastorate, remaining until called to New York City in May, 1881. Through the scholarly attainments and consecrated devotion of this gifted worker, the parish gained steadily in strength and soon took steps to build its present beautiful home. A building committee, consisting of M. W. French, S. R. Lawrence, J. A. Squier, Rev. C. H. Eaton, George Robinson and A. H. Willis, placed the contract and arranged that the style should be Gothic and the material Monson granite. The edifice was dedicated May 12, 1880. Rev. E. A. Perry of Tufts College succeeded Dr. Eaton and remained four years. In 1886 Rev. F. W. Betts became the pastor, remaining till 1889, when he was called to Syracuse, N.Y. Rev. James F. Albion (now of Portland, Me.) was his successor, being followed in 1891 by Rev. H. F. Moulton. In 1896 Rev. O. G. Petrie was called to the pastorate, he remaining until his death in April, 1900.

The present pastor, Rev. Willis A. Moore, accepted the call of the parish while a senior in Tufts Divinity School and began his duties Sept. 1, 1900. Upon completion of his studies in Tufts, leading to the degrees of A.B., S.T.B. and M.A., he was ordained and formally installed June 25, 1901.

The church owns its parsonage, a beautiful home, and has an endowment of \$17,000. There was never any debt on the church edifice.

Monson

THE First Universalist Parish of Monson was organized Nov. 24, 1882. Preaching services had been held for a short while before in Central Block and continued to be held there until the erection of the church edifice. A social circle was formed with gentlemen as honorary members, October 5. Sunday School was started in the spring of 1883. The church organization was perfected Jan. 13, 1886. The building was commenced in 1888 and was dedicated free from indebtedness the latter part of the following year. Cost, \$26,000. Within the last few years the parish has received large bequests from D. W. Ellis, Theodore Reynolds and C. W. King. The pastors have been as follows: Revs. Albert Hammatt, 1883-85; Donald Frazer, 1885-87; Ira A. Priest, 1887-89; Lee H. Fisher, 1889-91; Harry Blackford, 1892-99; Charles C. Connor, 1899-1905.



St. Paul's Universalist Church.
Palmer.



Universalist Church.
Monson.

Chatham

THE Universalist Society was organized in 1822 and its first house of worship was built the next year on a site now included in the Universalist Cemetery. A second and larger edifice was erected on Pond street in 1850, being dedicated Nov. 10, 1851. It was destroyed by fire in October, 1878. The present church home located on Main street was dedicated Nov. 10, 1878. The Sunday School came into existence about 1836. The Ladies' Circle, in existence over fifty years, has been of invaluable aid to the society. The Young People's Christian Union has been of invaluable aid to the young. The present pastor is Richard Eddy, S.T.D.

Wellfleet

SIXTY years or more ago a small band of Universalists was organized in Wellfleet. They are organized as a Church and have a very active and efficient Ladies' Circle. They own a convenient building. Formerly they held services in the winter, but since the total prostration of the fishing business Wellfleet has become a summer resort and services are held during the summer months.

Brewster

THE Universalist Society in Brewster was gathered in 1824. The first house of worship was erected in 1828. There were many pastors who labored diligently, preaching alternate Sundays. Rev. C. A. Bradley was the first pastor to preach every Sunday. During his first ministry a second house of worship was built (1852). During his second ministry a chapel was erected (1878). Mr. Bradley is still (1905) the pastor and has been connected with the society thirty-eight years.

Chatham



Wellfleet



Brewster.



Taunton

THE First Universalist Society of Taunton was legally organized in February, 1825, out of previous nebulous sentiment and desire, stimulated by the preaching of Revs. John Murray, Hosea Ballou, Thomas Whittemore, and other doctrinal agitators. Its first settled minister, Rev. John B. Dods, preached in the old meeting-house of the town, which was removed from its original site on Church Green to Spring street in 1831. During the pastorate of Rev. Wm. Fishbough, the first church building distinctly its own, was erected in 1842 at the corner of High and Spring streets. This served all needs until in 1876, during the ministry of Rev. R. P. Ambler, the present large and commodious structure was built on the site occupied by the former building. The society, now composed of about 125 families, and a Sunday School of the same number of members, has had the ministry, among others, of such men as Geo. W. Quimby, J. S. Brown, E. L. Conger, A. B. Hervey, W. W. Hooper, T. E. Potterton, and others of ability and consecration. Its present minister is Rev. T. W. Illman, and Sunday-school superintendent, F. M. Nichols.

Brockton

THE First Universalist Church of North Bridgewater (now Brockton) was organized Aug. 31, 1857, by A. P. Cleverly of Boston. In 1863, May 20, a chapel on East Elm street was completed and dedicated, and the late Rev. William A. Start ordained as pastor. A few years after a large church was built. Rev. I. M. Atwood was then pastor. This church was lost, the society being unable to pay for it. The present church on Cottage street was dedicated in 1887. A large addition was made to this church in 1892, Rev. Royal G. Sawyer and Rev. A. Hammatt respectively being the pastors at these times.

A fine church organ, a vestry, ladies' parlor, kitchen and pastor's room are among the accessories. The present pastor is Rev. W. H. Morrison: Sunday-school superintendent, Oscar Young; superintendent of kindergarten, Mrs. H. E. Barrows. In 1903 Hon. Wm. L. Douglas paid off the entire church debt of about \$10,000. The officers of the parish are: president, Gov. W. L. Douglas; clerk, E. B. Mullen; treasurer, M. A. Packard.



Taunton



Brockton

First Universalist Church Worcester

THE earliest record of the preaching of Universalism in Worcester was in 1834, when Rev. Lucius R. Page, D.D., held a number of services in the town hall. A congregation was gathered in 1840, and a pastor settled in 1841. The first meeting-house was erected in 1843, and served well the purposes of the society until it was outgrown in 1870 and the present church erected at an expense of \$70,000. It is a fine structure. In 1897 the interior of the church was remodeled and beautified at the cost of \$20,000. The church is located on Pleasant street not far from City Hall, and very nearly in the center of the city. Its pastors and their terms of service have been: Rev. Stephen P. Lauders, 1841-45; Rev. Albert Case, 1845-49; Rev. O. H. Tillottson, 1849-53; Rev. John G. Adams, D.D., 1853-60; Rev. L. W. Burrington, 1860-62; Rev. T. E. St. John, 1862-66; 1866-79; Rev. B. F. Bowles, 1866-68; Rev. M. H. Harris, D.D., 1879-90; Rev. Almon Gunnison, D.D., 1890-99; Rev. Vincent E. Tomlinson, 1900, is still serving. About 500 families are enrolled in the parish. The church numbers 325, and the Sunday School 400. Some of the leading families in the city have been identified with this church.

First Universalist Church Lowell

THE First Universalist Church in Lowell was organized in 1827. The first church was erected on Chapel Hill, afterwards removed to Central street. The present structure was erected in 1874 on Hurd street, at a cost of \$75,000. It is a fine building, in fact one of the best in Lowell. The material is brick with stone trimmings. The seating capacity is one thousand. It has a beautiful church organ; a large Sunday-school room, dining-room and kitchen. The present pastor is Rev. C. E. Fisher, who was installed in December, 1895. There are 300 families connected with the church. It stands among the first churches in the denomination. Dr. C. B. Sanders is superintendent of the Sunday School. The school was organized in 1830. The church celebrated its 75th anniversary in 1902. The Sunday School will have its anniversary exercises in 1905. This church was one of the first organized in Lowell, and the people attending services have always been among the first in the city. The present pastor celebrated his tenth year with special exercises, Dec. 5, 1905.



First Worcester



First Lowell

Warren

IN the early part of the 19th century some members of the First Parish of Brookfield, residing in that portion of the town called Western, formed a separate parish and erected a church. With the development of the village of Warren the descendants of this old society formed a Universalist church, and in 1837 erected the present edifice on land donated for the purpose by Mr. John Moore. For many years the society was the strongest in the village, including the most prominent and wealthy citizens. In recent years, owing to the decline in prosperity of the town, the consequent removal of many citizens, the death of many strong individuals, the society has become weakened. The building is well located, very attractive outwardly, and delightfully worshipful in the interior. A parsonage was willed to the society by the late Mrs. Frances I. Otis.

Shelburne Falls

THE First Universalist Society of Shelburne Falls was organized with fourteen charter members on Feb. 26, 1853, Rev. John Howard Willis of Vermont being its first pastor. The society worshipped in public halls and other places in the village until Feb. 16, 1870, when the present edifice was erected under the pastorate of Rev. Benjamin V. Stevenson. Women were first admitted as voting members of the society in 1872, and March 19 of that year, the date of the annual meeting, is a red-letter day in the society's history.

Two Universalist ministers have been ordained in the new edifice: Rev. Samuel G. Davis on Jan. 13, 1876, and Rev. Frank W. Whipple on Oct. 12, 1882; both serving as pastors of the society. At this date, September, 1905, the society has been served by thirteen pastors, and the present incumbent, Rev. W. D. Potter, entered upon the thirteenth year of his service in June. The First Universalist Church was organized with thirty charter members Dec. 1, 1864, by Rev. George Deere, who was pastor for six years covering the period of the civil war. Many of the leading citizens of the town are identified with the work, the growth has been steady and a worthy record has been made for the cause of Christ.

St. Paul's Universalist Church Adams, Mass.

ORGANIZED in 1844. Present brick church edifice erected in 1871. Among the founders should be mentioned William, Daniel and Phoebe Jenks, H. T. Crandall and Hon. H. J. Bliss. Among the pastors may be mentioned Revs. Almon W. Mason, Quincy Whitney, Prof. Woodbridge of Tufts College, Dr. Priest of Akron, O., and O. I. Darling.



North Attleboro

THE Universalist Society at North Attleboro was organized in 1816, first services being held in a hall at Newell's Tavern, West Attleboro. The first meeting-house was erected in 1818, at a cost of \$3,000, Rev. Richard Carrique being pastor. In 1834 some members began to hold services in North Attleboro, and in 1841 a church was erected on the present site.

The corner stone of the present handsome edifice was laid Sept. 18, 1882, Rev. John S. Cantwell, D.D., being pastor. The building was dedicated April 17, 1884. It is a handsome and commodious brick structure, well located on the principal street of the town. There is a prosperous Sunday School connected with the church; also an exceptionally fine choir, and the song service is given special attention.

Among clergymen who have been identified with this church should be mentioned Rev. J. D. Pierce, who served in that capacity for more than a quarter of a century, winning universal respect and honor from the town in general as well as from his own parish. Rev. Ralph E. Connor is the present pastor.

Murray Universalist Church Attleboro

ONE of the first meetings on record "of those interested in the establishing of Universalist preaching in Attleboro" was held May 22, 1875. Mr. H. N. Richardson presided and Mr. Geo. A. Adams, Esq., was secretary. At this meeting report was made of the work of a preceding committee in securing subscriptions toward the desired end. At this meeting it was "voted that we now adjourn to Sunday evening after the services." Doubtless at that informal meeting previous to May 22, Messrs. S. P. Lathrop and G. A. Adams were appointed to draw up a constitution and by-laws. The adoption of their report and signing of the constitution in Union Hall, June 19, 1875, gave Murray Parish its organized existence and formally secured the establishment of Universalist preaching in Attleboro. The first Universalist preaching in Attleboro was by Rev. Richard Carrique, about 1820, in Bolkom's Hall. During 1875 services were held with the saintly Rev. J. D. Pierce of No. Attleboro as principal preacher. The spirit of the time was Calvinistic. Ministers here, even at a funeral, would not occupy the same platform with Rev. Mr. Pierce. The following have been pastors of this church: Rev. A. E. White, July, 1876, to July, 1878. The church organization formed. Rev. Thomas W. Illman, Oct. 1, 1878, to 1884. In 1881, \$2,000 was raised and the lot on which the building stands was bought. Rev. H. A. Philbrook, Sept. 14, 1884, to Sept. 1, 1888. On May 11, 1887, the present edifice was dedicated. Rev. Daniel Fisher, Feb. 1, 1902, to September, 1903. During Mr. Fisher's pastorate the parsonage was built. The present pastor, Rev. Hendrik Vossema, began his work Sept. 1, 1903. Both church and society have made rapid progress. The church membership is now 143 and nearly 300 families look upon Murray Church as their church home. The Sunday School, under the efficient leadership of Louis J. Lamb, has now a membership of 325. Active membership of the Senior Y.P.C.U. is 25, and Junior (led by Miss Ellen Livingstone) 45. The Woman's Benevolent Society has enjoyed a vigorous growth the past two years. The organ was bought a few years ago at a cost of \$2,500, and was the gift of Mr. A. W. Sturdy. It is regarded as one of the sweetest toned in this section. There is a vested choir of about twenty voices. The beautifully decorated auditorium has a seating capacity of 350. Sunday-school sessions are held in the vestry below.



No Attleboro.

Attleboro.

Grove Hall Universalist Church Dorchester

THE Grove Hall Universalist Church is situated in Dorchester at the corner of Washington and Wilder streets. It is a stone church built in 1895 at a cost of \$45,000. The present front is temporary and will be replaced by a stone façade. The interior is handsomely finished in oak, and contains an organ of exceptional quality. The parish numbers 175 families, and the Sunday School numbers 225. The seating capacity of the church is about 600. The pastor, Rev. Abram Conklin, is a graduate of St. Lawrence University and was ordained in 1879. He has had pastorates at Southold, N.Y., Brooklyn, N.Y., Reading, Pa., Bath, Me., and Fitchburg, Mass. The former pastors of the Grove Hall Church were Rev. F. A. Dillingham, Rev. E. H. Chapin, Rev. I. P. Coddington, Rev. C. R. Tenney. The parish was first organized in 1878. Its first edifice was on Schuyler street in Roxbury.

First Universalist Church Roxbury

THIS society was incorporated in February, 1820, and its first meeting-house was dedicated Jan. 4, 1821. This building, which stood at the junction of Guild Row and Dudley street, was burned Jan. 13, 1894. The present church was dedicated Sept. 18, 1895. Rev. Frederick W. Hamilton, D.D., eighth pastor of the church, began his service Sept. 1, 1895, and still remains in charge. Mr. Frank W. Mendum is superintendent of the Sunday School.

The building is fully equipped with parlor, dining-room, lecture-room, class-room and all that is needed for a modern church. The fine-toned bell, which hangs in the tower, was the bell of the old church. The organ is one of the finest in this part of Boston. The windows, nearly all made by the Tiffany Favril Glass Co., are not excelled in taste and beauty by any in Boston.



Yarmouth

THE Universalists in Yarmouthport organized and built their house of worship in 1836. It has had six resident pastors. The first pastor, Rev. J. N. Parker, is still living at the age of ninety years. The three who followed long since deceased. Rev. V. Lincoln came to the parish in 1860 and served eleven years. Following Mr. Lincoln, Rev. C. A. Bradley ministered to the society twenty-seven years. There is at the present time no pastor.

Provincetown

THE First Universalist Society of Provincetown was organized April 16, 1829, as the Christian Union Society, and at once proceeded to build a church, which they occupied until 1847, when the present edifice was built.

The building is noted for the neatness of its interior decoration and the beauty of its spire. The latter was repaired in 1901 at an expense of \$1,100, the old timbers being taken out and replaced one by one, to preserve its original beauty.

On taking possession of the new edifice the name was changed to "The First Universalist Society." The present pastor is Rev. Fred L. Payson. The chairman of executive committee is Mr. A. P. Hannum, who is also superintendent of the Sunday School. Mr. Simeon C. Smith is parish clerk.

Abington

THE first Universalist Parish of Abington was organized April 20, 1836. David Gloyd, originator of the movement, secured Thomas Whittemore to conduct the first service, held in the Pine Wood schoolhouse, Plymouth street. The services were held in the Town House for several years. July 4, 1841, the cornerstone of the first church building was laid. This building was dedicated December 22, the same year. A bell was purchased about 1858. Feb. 11, 1862, the church was organized. Sept. 25, 1864, the cornerstone of the present building was laid. The old church was remodeled, a vestry added, and an organ placed in the church. This church was dedicated in 1865. Present pastor is Rev. Henry Adams Parkhurst. The church is centrally located on Washington street, the principal street of the town.



Yarmouth.



Abington.



Provincetown.

Lawrence

THE First Universalist Church of Lawrence was organized Nov. 15, 1847, seven months after the incorporation of the town of Lawrence. Meetings were held in schoolhouses and halls until 1853, when a brick church was erected on Haverhill street, facing the Common. In 1865 the building was remodeled and enlarged, and a spire was added. A Sunday School was organized in December, 1847, and in 1859 a church organization was formed, which is now known as "The Church of the Good Shepherd."

The pastors have been as follows: Rev. George H. Clark, Nov. 15, 1847, to June 15, 1851; Rev. Henry Jewell, October, 1851, to January, 1852; Rev. James R. Johnson, June 1, 1852, to June 24, 1855; Rev. J. J. Brayton, Oct. 24, 1855, to August, 1858; Rev. Martin J. Steere, Jan. 3, 1859, to July 1, 1860; Rev. George S. Weaver, D.D., October, 1860, to March 31, 1873; Rev. George W. Perry, June 5, 1873, to Oct. 1, 1877; Rev. Alphonso E. White, July 1, 1878, to July 1, 1886; Rev. William E. Gibbs, D.D. (whose portrait is shown in the picture), Oct. 1, 1886, to the present time. The superintendent of the Sunday School is Frederick E. Freeman.

Leominster

THE first service of the society now the First Universalist Society of Leominster, Mass., was held in Kendall Hall, No. Leominster, January, 1894, Rev. Chas. S. Nickerson, state missionary, preaching the sermon. Soon afterwards Rev. J. F. Albion of Fitchburg became interested and wrought zealously, establishing a mission here. Rev. A. N. Blackford of Shirley preached from June, 1894, until June, 1895, during which time the society moved to Leominster Center. Rev. C. Guy Robbins, a student in Tufts Divinity School, preached from June until September, 1895. From this time until February, 1896, students from Tufts supplied.

The Rev. C. Guy Robbins took charge, and after his ordination was installed pastor, June 21, 1897, continuing until January, 1904. Rev. John Kimball became pastor May, 1904. The parish was incorporated August, 1895. The church was organized April, 1898; Sunday School, March, 1895; Y.P.C.U., July, 1895; Ladies' Circle, April, 1894. A church edifice was dedicated June 28, 1898.



Lawrence



Leominster

Eastham

AFTER a ministry covering half a dozen years the pastor can testify that this little parish embraces some of our most devoted and loyal workers. One of the most hopeful features is fidelity to the Sunday School, of which Mrs. Sarah B. Clark is the efficient superintendent. Although the flock is small, the spirit of unity prevails, coupled with an honest determination to forge ahead. From the outset it has been self-sustaining, and unlike our modern missions it has never received aid from the State Convention. Founded but sixteen years ago, when there was great opposition to organized Universalism, the parish has demonstrated its right to exist, and those at its helm are determined that no step shall be taken backward. With hearty sympathy in behalf of our forward movement it keeps to the even tenor of its ways, full of faith and good works. Recently the interior has been redecorated and now we have a church home where it is a delight to "worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." Rev. N. S. Hill, pastor.

Orleans

IT is said of Dr. Channing that he needed no cathedral aids to make his own service impressive. His parish still retains the "old meeting-house" of the fathers, architecturally as simple as a Quaker conventicle, but modernized within. The founders were deeply interested in the postulates of Universalism, and spent but little time and money in the aesthetics of worship.

Over the wide world the tree is known by its fruits. Daniel Webster was once asked "What the sterile soils of New Hampshire produced?" and the immediate answer vouchsafed was "MEN."

With pride we point to the fact that this parish, whose record covers three-quarters of a century, nurtured many faithful and devout souls and has sent into the world one of our most eminent laymen, the Hon. Edward H. Cole (whose portrait appears on the opposite page), now of New York City, generous donor of St. Lawrence University, leader and factor at the "Church of Our Father," Brooklyn, and whose open hand sustains charities of which the world knows not. Within a twelve-month he has donated to the Orleans Church a "Parish House," pleasant and commodious, an incentive to continue the work of upbuilding in the coming years.

Universalism on Cape Cod lacks the aggressive spirit and loyalty of the fathers, yet we are not without hope that the faithful remnant will make vital the imperative need of our church to incarnate our Faith among potent religious factors of the twentieth century. Rev. N. S. Hill is rounding out the seventh year of his pastorate.

Eastham



Orleans

Westminster

THE first organization of the Universalist Church in Westminster was effected in 1817. Three years later the "First Universalist Society in Westminster" was incorporated. The present house of worship, now located on Main street in the Center Village, was first erected in the year 1821 on the "North Common," about one mile from where it now stands. In 1833, during the pastorate of Rev. Charles Hudson, the church building was moved to the position which it now occupies. Externally the structure is essentially the same as when first erected, although important changes and renovations have been made inside at several different dates. The present pastor is Rev. Lucy A. Milton.

Annisquam

THE Third or Annisquam Parish of Gloucester was set off as an independent parish in 1728 (June 11), and included the whole of the extreme end of the Cape. A "Meeting-House" had been built previously (1726 or 1727) and a pastor called. At this time the church was of the Orthodox persuasion and remained so until 1812, when its pastor, Rev. Ezra Leonard, with a large majority of its members, accepted the Universalist belief.

The present church edifice was built in 1830 and dedicated Jan. 5, 1831, at which ceremony the Rev. Thomas Jones, Hosea Ballou, Thos. Whittemore and others of lesser celebrity assisted. Mr. Leonard remained pastor until after this last date, dying within a year or two after. The building has remained with little or no external change to this time, with the exception of the dome which surmounted the belfry, which decayed and was some twenty years ago replaced by a square or hip roof, as shown in the plate. A movement is now being made to restore it to its original symmetry. Rev. Hiram W. Smith is pastor, and Mrs. Clara Benton superintendent of the Sunday School, the latter having served in that capacity upwards of twenty-five years.

West Wrentham

THE West Wrentham Church was erected somewhere about 1840. Situated in the center of what was once a prosperous agricultural section, death and removals have so diminished the society that services have been discontinued for some time, but the past summer services were resumed during the summer months, various pastors supplying the pulpit in turn. The building is of wood, and stands on a slightly eminence about ten minutes walk from the railroad station of the New Haven road. It is a pleasant spot, which needs but better transportation facilities to build up the community, when regular services would doubtless be resumed.



First Universalist Church Gleason Memorial Methuen

THE records date from March 29, 1824, when Abiel How, William Smith, Samuel Bodwell, Charles Cheney, Isaac Bodwell, Isaac Currier, Robinson How, petitioned for organization. A constitution was drafted, and subscription for preaching raised. The parish was organized April 17, 1824. Abiel How is the first name on the list of members, also acting as clerk and treasurer. The first preacher was Rev. Paul Dean. The records show payment of \$10 for services to Rev. Hosea Ballou. Early services were held in a schoolhouse; later in Wilson Hall. In 1828 it was voted to engage Rev. T. G. Farnsworth, Rev. D. D. Smith, Rev. Thomas Whittemore, Rev. Sylvanus Cobb, L. S. Everett, and L. R. Page to supply up to 1835. In the latter year steps were taken to build a church home. At a special meeting it was voted to build a house of worship. The lot was purchased Nov. 9, 1835, of Dr. Dearborn, and the present church edifice erected and completed June 1, 1836, at a cost of \$2,500. Rev. John Curley was settled at a salary of \$200. The pastor's salary was doubled the second year. In 1839 Rev. E. N. Harris was engaged at \$600, but remained but a short time, and the following ministers were engaged to supply the pulpit: Otis A. Skinner, Thomas Whittemore, A. A. Miner and others. Rev. A. A. Miner was called and installed in 1840, and served the parish two years, his first pastorate. Succeeding pastors were Revs. H. R. Nye, Willard Spaulding, H. Husey, Edwin Davis, ——— Davenport, C. A. Bradley, Donald Frazer, A. E. White, A. F. Walch, 1885-1890. During Mr. Walch's pastorate \$1,000 was expended on the church. Then came Revs. A. J. Torsleff, H. H. Hoyt, H. S. Fisk, 1894, William Gaskin, and W. R. Libbey, the present pastor, 1901-1906.

The Sunday School has been organized at least sixty years; the church organization is as old as the parish; and the Ladies' Society was organized as early as 1841. In 1901 the old edifice was remodeled and beautified by the generosity of Mr. Charles Tenney, a public-spirited citizen, as a memorial to Mrs. Tenney's father, Daniel Gleason, and is now called by vote of the parish

THE FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH GLEASON MEMORIAL

It is one of the most beautiful interiors of church architecture, and was completed at a cost of over \$15,000, including the organ. The edifice is one of the landmarks of the town, sitting upon a hill, approached by a flight of stone steps. The members of the parish are a loyal and faithful people, and though, like most country churches, it is small, yet active and prosperous.



Stoughton

THE Universalist Church of Stoughton is the old First Parish of the town, and has never lost its supremacy. The church edifice was erected in 1807, repaired in 1848, enlarged and repaired in 1870. The building is of wood, of the colonial type, with an auditorium above, seating about 500 persons. Below is the church parlor, kitchen, dressing-rooms and Sunday-school room. The parish has had thirteen pastors—three Congregationalists, one Unitarian and nine Universalists. The Universalist pastors have been successive since 1832, as follows: Messrs. Ballou, Dennis, Chambré, Mason, Smith, Tenney, Puffer, Grose and Williams. At the present time the parish has about 350 families, with a Sunday School of 200. There are about 115 church members. Services are held during the year with the exception of a vacation in August. Evening services are held during the winter months.

Milford

THE Milford Universalist Society is one of the oldest in Massachusetts. Elder Adams Streeter, its first pastor, came to town Nov. 16, 1781, and remained until his death, Sept. 3, 1786. He was succeeded by many able and devoted ministers. The present pastor is Rev. Elbert W. Whitney. Jan. 10, 1821, the first church (of brick) was dedicated. The second church, of wood, designed by T. W. Silloway, was dedicated May 1, 1851. Rev. Hosea Ballou preached the sermon on both occasions. March 22, 1900, the third church, of Milford pink granite, costing \$45,000, was dedicated. It is very thoroughly built, and is a model for convenience and beauty. The church is very active and influential.

Canton

THE church in Canton was erected in 1847. It has been remodeled until but little of the original structure is visible from the street. The main body of the church remains, but the original tower was removed on account of decay many years ago, and when afterwards, during the pastorate of the Rev. John Vannevar, the building was completely remodeled and the present front added, a much larger tower of different form was added and a heavy, fine-toned bell placed therein. Still more recently the convenient parish hall, of which a glimpse is shown in the picture, was added. The church is located on the main street, is commodious and neatly arranged in the interior, heated by furnaces and lighted by electricity. Several beautiful memorial windows add to the beauty of the auditorium. A fine-toned organ stands by the side of the minister's desk.



Third Universalist Church

Cambridge

THE church originated as a Unitarian movement in 1851, and continued as such under the name of Allen Street Congregational Society for twenty-three years. In 1868, Rev. C. E. Fay, now professor in Tufts College, was asked to minister to the society and did so. In 1870 the church voted to go into the fellowship of the Universalist Convention. The first minister of the Universalist fellowship was Rev. William A. Start, who began his pastorate March 6, 1870. Mr. Start was killed a few years ago by the subway explosion at corner of Tremont and Boylston streets, Boston. In 1874, Rev. I. M. Atwood, now General Secretary of the Universalist Church of the United States, succeeded to the pastorate, and was followed by Rev. C. W. Biddle, D.D., in 1880. 1895 Rev. F. O. Hall succeeded to the pastorate and continued until Dec. 1, 1902. The present pastor, Rev. W. B. Eddy, began his work Apr. 19, 1903. The present structure was dedicated Sept. 14, 1876, and cost, including land, \$43,341.

First Universalist Church

Somerville

THE first meeting of this society was held in the fall of 1853. The parish was organized Feb. 16, 1854, and the first place of worship erected 1854-5. A larger edifice was built and occupied in 1869. The present structure was dedicated in 1869. Charles Tufts, founder of Tufts College, gave the parish the land on which the church stands. A hall for social purposes of the parish was built at the rear of the church in 1894.

The society is entirely free from debt and is as thoroughly equipped in all its branches as any religious organization in the Metropolitan district.

The pastors have been Revs. Chas. H. Emerson, D.D., 1854; D. H. Clark, 1859; B. K. Russ, 1862; Geo. H. Vibbert, 1874; W. S. Ralph, 1877; Chas. A. Skinner, D.D., 1881; L. M. Powers, D.D., 1892; and the present pastor, the Rev. H. D. Maxwell, 1899.

The parish consists of 300 families. It has the largest Sunday School in the vicinity of Boston, the superintendent being Arthur W. Glines.



Third Cambridge



First Somerville

All Souls' Church

Braintree

(Universalist and Unitarian)

ALL SOULS' CHURCH was organized in November, 1900. For some years previous the Universalists had sustained a small parish, but when the Unitarians were about to organize a church, it was suggested that a union of forces might result in greater good for liberal religious truth. All Souls' Church was therefore made non-sectarian but affiliated with the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Convention. The church has shown remarkable strength, and has grown to double its original size.

The church building was erected last year at a cost of \$40,000. The land and organ were given by Mr. George O. Wales. There is no debt of any kind. The parish membership is about 200. The Sunday school membership about 180; superintendent, Mr. John West.

The minister, who has been here since the church was organized, is Rev. Frederick R. Griffin, who came from the Harvard Divinity School.

Goddard Chapel, Tufts College

GODDARD CHAPEL, erected in 1882-3, is the gift of Mrs. Mary T. Goddard to Tufts College, as a memorial of her husband, the late Thomas A. Goddard. Morning prayers are held in the chapel daily and the usual church services on Sunday evenings, both in charge of the college chaplain. A trained choir, composed of men and women students, sings on Sundays.



Tyngsboro

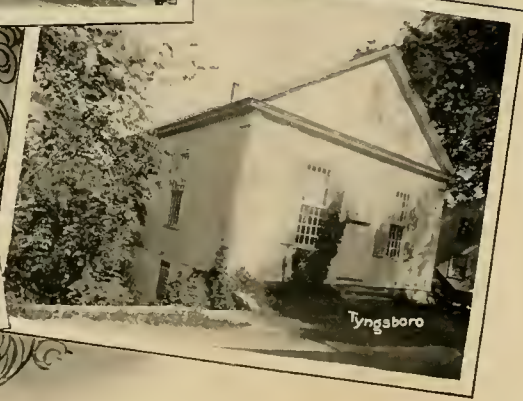
THE society was founded in 1841, Rev. Josiah Gilman being the first pastor. The church was dedicated in 1842. The "Ladies' Murray Circle," an important auxiliary, was organized in 1848; its first secretary and treasurer, Miss Mary J. Upton, still bears the title of "secretary and treasurer *emeritus*." Many gifted preachers have spoken in this church, which since 1894 has been dormant.

Essex

THE Universalist Society of Essex was organized in 1835, and its house of worship erected in 1836. It is situated on the road to Gloucester, commanding a fine view of the hills and the sea. The parish has sixty four families; its clerk is Mrs. Annie N. James; superintendent of the Sunday School, Miss Susan P. Andrews. Rev. G. J. Sanger of Danvers is its acting pastor. The church edifice is kept in excellent repair, and its interior attractive by well cushioned seats and finely frescoed walls.

West Haverhill

THE West Haverhill Church is one of the oldest Universalist church buildings now standing in Massachusetts. It is in a raised position, approached by a flight of steps, and is characterized by the old-time belfry deck and tower. It was erected in 1804, and in exterior is but little changed from the old days.



Grace Universalist Church

Franklin

THE present Grace Church was dedicated in 1887. It is the third edifice in which the Universalists of Franklin have worshiped. The first church has been removed and is now occupied by the Baptists. The second structure was destroyed by fire. The present church is located on the grounds of Dean Academy, where the two former churches stood. There are one hundred and twenty-five families in the parish and one hundred and fifteen church members. In addition to the townspeople the majority of the Dean Academy students and teachers attend this church. The principal benefactor of this church has been the late Oliver Dean, the founder of Dean Academy, who left his residence as a parsonage for the church as well as a large fund for current expenses. The pastor is the Rev. Reignold K. Marvin, and the Sunday-school superintendent, Prof. Arthur W. Peirce, principal of Dean. The Y.P.C.U. connected with this church is one of the largest in the state.

Fitchburg

UNIVERSALIST history in Fitchburg began with occasional preaching in the Town Hall. The first Universalist Society of Fitchburg was organized Oct. 9, 1844. A neat brick building was erected in 1847, which is still standing on the corner of Main and Rollstone streets. The growth of the city eastward led to the Sunday School beginning a new church fund in 1872. The Ladies' Circle took action in 1881. Under the pastorate of Rev. F. O. Hall the present church building was begun in March, 1885, and dedicated with all debts assumed. It is an artistic structure of brick with stone trimmings, located but one block from the depot where all the trolley lines converge. The auditorium is supplied with 513 opera chairs arranged in circular form. The organ was a splendid memorial gift for Rev. Charles Woodhouse (second pastor of the society) by his son, Lorenzo. There are several pretty memorial windows. The property is valued at \$40,200. Nearly \$400 was expended this year on exterior improvements. The Sunday School numbers over 300, thoroughly graded under a progressive curriculum, with Dr. George T. Greenwood as its able superintendent. The parish list bears the names of over 450 families, directed since March 1, 1905, by Rev. E. B. Saunders. All departments of the church are in most promising condition.



Franklin



Fitchburg

All Souls Universalist Church Worcester

THE Second Universalist Church in Worcester, called "All Souls Church," is located at the corner of Woodland and Norwood streets, and was established as a branch of the First Church about twenty years ago. It is a wooden building, of quite ornamental architecture. The present pastor is Rev. A. J. Canfield, D.D., an eloquent pulpit orator.

Grace Universalist Church Lowell

THE original of Grace Church was organized as the Second Universalist Church, Sept. 24, 1836. Nov. 24, 1838, a brick church costing \$20,000 was dedicated at the corner of Shattuck and Market streets. For sixty years this church was used as the place of worship of this organization. April 1, 1896, a new church building costing \$60,000 was dedicated at the corner of So. Canton and Princeton streets. Among the earlier pastors of the church were men who left their mark upon the denomination and the world. Rev. Abel C. Thomas, Rev. A. A. Miner, D.D., and Rev. J. G. Adams, D.D., were of the number. The present pastor, the Rev. Ransom A. Greene, D.D., began his work in the old church, and has consequently completed twenty-nine years of service with the church. The superintendent of the Sunday School, which is large and flourishing, is Dr. C. W. Taylor. The church has had a remarkably harmonious history, and has a congregation made up of many of the best people in Lowell.



All Saints Universalist Church
Worcester



Grace Church
Lowell.

St. Paul's Church. First Universalist Springfield

THE Society was founded and preaching services begun in 1826. In 1827 it was incorporated as "The First Independent Universalist Society of Springfield." The first settled minister was Rev. Lucius R. Paige. Religious services were at first held in the government chapel on the armory grounds. The first meeting-house was built in 1844, on the corner of Main and Stockbridge streets. Here, in 1855, the *Church* was organized. In 1869, the society having outgrown its quarters, the present building, corner Chestnut and Bridge streets, was erected. In 1888 it was extensively remodeled, and subsequent repairs, improvements and decorations have kept it up-to-date. The church is located "down town," but in a rapidly growing residence district, and the parish is in a healthy and prosperous condition. The present minister is Rev. Flint M. Bissell.

Westfield

ONE of the neatest little churches in the western part of the State is that of Westfield. It is a small parish but owns a fine church conveniently situated at the corner of one of the busiest streets and handy to the electric traffic. The structure is of wood and was erected in 1890. Losses by death and removal have handicapped the parish to some extent. The property is valued at about \$20,000, and is of modern design and an ornament to the town.



St. Paul's Church Springfield



Westfield

Southbridge

THESE has been Universalist preaching in Southbridge from Revolutionary times. July 4, 1800, a union meeting-house was dedicated which served this and other denominations. The present Universalist church was built 1842. The interior has been remodeled and refinished in 1862 and in 1884. Among the early preachers were Murray, Ballou and Streeter. Among its earlier pastors were J. M. Usher, D. K. Lee, D.D., B. F. Bolles and A. B. Hervey, D.D. Since 1880 it has co-operated with the Unitarian Church in Sturbridge, having the same minister. The building is well situated, convenient to the electric, and in a commanding situation.

Charlton

THE Charlton church is a wooden structure erected in 1839. It is one of the typical New England churches, spacious, with tall, well-proportioned steeple and columned porch. It stands a short distance to one side of the electric line, on a little square of rising ground, and is one of the most prominent buildings in the village. From its steeple one of the finest views of the surrounding country to be had in central Massachusetts can be obtained. The elevated position of the building permits the addition of a large basement.

Oxford

Oldest Universalist Church in the World

THIS church was erected in 1792. The society was organized in 1785, and during the same year voted to call a convention of the scattered believers throughout the country for the purpose of making a closer organization. The convention met and the great Universalist Denomination of today was born and has grown to its present majestic proportions. Rev Hosea Ballou, justly regarded as the great leader of the church, was ordained here in 1794, and the pulpit in which that ceremony took place is here preserved as a relic of that event, it having survived the changes that have come over the edifice during these hundred years. While the church is the oldest in the world, the society itself ranks as the second, that at Gloucester being the very first. Rev. Adam Streeter was the first pastor, and since his death, by settlement and by supply it has enjoyed the ministrations of most of the early celebrities and of a long line of earnest and faithful pastors. Rev. W. G. Schoppe is now (1906) in charge of the parish.

Southbridge



Charlton



Oxford



Everett

AS near as can be ascertained, religious services were first held by Universalists in Everett, in 1864. But the earliest record of any meeting for business is under date of March 28, 1865, at Badger's Hall. Rev. B. K. Russ of Somerville was engaged to preach for one year as a supply. The society continued to worship in Badger's Hall until September, 1872, their principal ministers being Revs. D. J. Greenwood, A. A. Miner, H. I. Cushman, L. L. Briggs, A. J. Canfield, W. H. Cudworth and W. H. Rider, then a theological student. A church was built in 1872, and dedicated September 25, of that year. The church edifice was remodeled in 1889, and rededicated Jan. 17, 1890. Rev. R. Perry Bush succeeded Mr. Cudworth as pastor. He was followed by Rev. F. E. Webster, who resigned in the fall of 1893. Rev. G. G. Hamilton, formerly pastor of the Shawmut Avenue Church in Boston, was called in 1894, and is still in charge.

Salem

THIS society was organized in 1805, John Murray coming to Salem and preaching in May of that year. The centennial of that event was observed last May.

August, 1808, the corner stone of the church building was laid, and in June, 1809, the building was dedicated and Rev. Edward Turner, the first pastor, was installed. In 1877 the building was extensively remodeled, and in 1890 the chapel annex, containing the Sunday-school rooms, was dedicated.

The society numbers about 300 families, with a church membership of over 200. The present pastor is Rev. C. H. Puffer, D.D., who was installed in 1893, and he is the fourteenth since the institution of the society. Wm. D. Dennis is the chairman of the parish committee, and Wm. S. Hill is clerk and treasurer. The Sunday School numbers about 400; Harry C. Arnold is superintendent. The school has four departments: the kindergarten, intermediate, primary and senior. There is also a thriving Junior Union and a flourishing Y.P.C.U. organization.



North Dana

THE western part of the State is especially blessed with beautiful church buildings, and the artistic little church at North Dana will be a surprise to one unacquainted with the resources of the people of these middle-state towns. Built of wood, with beautiful stained-glass windows, it stands in a conspicuous position, a short distance back from the railroad station. It was erected about 1898, and is unquestionably one of the prettiest moderate cost churches in the State.

North Adams

THE First Universalist Society of North Adams was organized April 9, 1842, though meetings had been held for several years previously. In 1845 the old Methodist church was bought and put into repair and served as the church home till 1852, when a church was built on State street, where the Hotel Wellington now stands. This building in time gave way to the handsome structure now in use on Summer street, which was finished in 1893, in the pastorate of Dr. A. B. Church.

In striking contrast to the religious sentiments expressed by sister churches at the time this society had its origin, a fraternal feeling has developed amazingly, the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man finding larger expression than ever before. The present pastor is the Rev. G. W. Colson, who was called to this work in June, 1902.



North Dana



North Adams

Merrimac

THE church building at Merrimac was erected in 1836. The church was organized in August, 1868, with Rev. Wm. F. Potter, pastor, and thirteen others. The last pastor was Rev. F. W. Gibbs, now pastor of the Amesbury Universalist Church. No services have been held in this church for about two years.

Swampscott

A PRETTY little church structure partly of stone and partly of wood. In summer particularly the church is a pretty picture, nestled among the trees and shrubbery. It was erected about 1891, and is valued at about \$9,000.

Marlboro

THE Marlboro church is substantial rather than ornamental, the lower part being used for business purposes while the auditorium of the church is in the second story. It is a wooden building, erected about 1866. Rev. R. D. Van Tassel is the present (1905) pastor.



Swampscott



Merrimac



Marblehead

Arlington

THE first Universalist service known to have been held in Arlington was held in 1822, Thos. Whittemore being the preacher. The meeting called to organize a society was held in August, 1840. At this meeting it was voted to proceed to erect a church building, and January, 1841, the building was dedicated. The original building was remodeled in 1860 and again in 1896. The building was without a vestry until 1860, and in 1901 this part of the property was put in good order. The first pipe organ was placed in the rear of the auditorium in 1850, and remained in that position until the changes were made in 1896, when Walter B. Farmer presented the society with a memorial organ in memory of his father, Elbridge Farmer, and it was placed back of the pulpit.

A church organization was formed one year after the society organization, August, 1841. The Sunday School came into existence in 1841: Samaritan Society the fall of 1841: 1889 the Y.P.C.U.: and from time to time other organizations have existed.

The first pastor of the church was the Rev. J. C. Waldo, and in all ten have served, the longest pastorate being that of the Rev. Harry Fay Fister, who has served to date twelve years.

The church consists at present of 165 families, 75 church members, 135 in the Sunday School, 40 members of the Samaritan Society and 35 members of the Y.P.C.U. Mrs. E. W. Goodwin is in charge of the Sunday School; Mrs. F. A. Hortter, president of the Samaritan Society, and Henry Knickerbocker, president of the Y.P.C.U. The church has a number of invested funds, the largest two being called after their donors, the "Robbins Fund" and the "Buckman Fund."

Chelsea

A WELL-PROPORTIONED, rather plain brick structure marks the church home of the Universalists of Chelsea. It was erected about 1862, and is valued at over \$20,000. The church membership is about 180 and the society is composed of nearly 300 families. Rev. R. P. Bush is the pastor.



Arlington



Chelsea

St. Paul's Universalist Church

Jamaica Plain

THIS church was organized April 10, 1887, and the building was erected in 1891. It is located on Rockview street opposite St. John street. There is a vestry, Sunday-school room and kitchen in the basement. The present membership is about 150, and the society is under the guidance of the Rev. Florence Kollack Crooker. The superintendent of the Sunday School is E. W. Clark

Ashmont Parish

THIS parish sprung into existence through the earnest efforts of the Rev. Chas. Conklin, State Secretary. The first business meeting was held Mar. 14, 1902, when some forty people met and drew up and signed an agreement of association founding a corporation, the name of which was to be "The Ashmont Universalist Parish of Boston." The first religious meeting was held in Ashmont Hall, corner of Bushnell and Lombard streets, July 26, 1892. This property was later purchased by the society and here Rev. Chas. Conklin preached and assisted the society until Nov. 7, 1902. At this time the Rev. L. O. Williams was called and labored faithfully with this parish nine years, resigning Dec. 7, 1901, going to Stoughton, Mass. From this time the pulpit was filled with supplies until Sept. 1, 1902, when Rev. Merrill C. Ward was called and gave himself devotedly to the work until Sept. 1, 1903, when he was called to Southbridge. At this period of the parish's history dark clouds of despair hung heavily over the people, but the faithful father of the parish, Rev. Chas. Conklin, rallied the drooping spirits of the people and, inspired with hope and success, the hall was renovated throughout and made into a beautiful chapel with all the necessary appointments needed in any church. In March, 1905, the Rev. Harry Adams Hersey came to us and is giving his earnest efforts to the building up of a strong and united church, and so forgetting the things that are behind we are "pressing toward the mark of our high calling in Christ Jesus."



Jamaica Plain.



Ashmont.

Lanesville

IN 1876 measures were taken to build a Universalist Church in Lanesville, with Rev. B. G. Russell, the pastor, as chairman of the building committee. A lot was purchased on Washington street. The parish was organized Mar. 1, 1876. The church edifice was completed at a cost of \$4,949.92, and was dedicated May 22, 1878, free of debt, the dedication sermon being by Rev. A. J. Patterson, D.D., and the text being Numbers x 29. Regular services were held June 1, 1879, to May 3, 1880, with Rev. B. G. Russell as pastor. For six years supplies, Tufts College Divinity students and various ministers occupied the pulpit. May 5, 1889, Rev. G. W. Penniman settled over the Annisquam parish and preached at Lanesville also until Nov. 1, 1894. July 1, 1895, to Sept. 25, 1898, Rev. A. A. Smith, living at Annisquam, supplied at Lanesville in the afternoon, Rev. Mr. Gilbert, Rev. Geo. H. Foster, and Rev. Mr. Maxwell succeeded in that order. The present pastor is Rev. Ralph Holbrook Cheever, who entered upon his duties at Lanesville in connection with Pigeon Cove in November, 1903.

Gloucester

THE Universalist Society of Gloucester was founded in September, 1774, by Rev. John Murray, being the historic society in America.

The first meeting-house was dedicated Christmas, 1780. The present building is of wood and was dedicated Sept. 5, 1805. At its first service, October, 1806, began the custom of the christening or dedication of children. Its bell was cast in Paul Revere's foundry. The Sunday School was organized in 1820, making it the oldest in consecutive work in the denomination.

The present minister, Rev. W. H. Rider, D.D., assumed charge in 1883. Sunday-school superintendent is F. J. Babson.

Aside from its faith this society in securing its incorporation in June, 1792, became the means of abolishing the parish tax and obtaining liberty for all religious bodies.

Marblehead

THE present Universalist church building at Marblehead was erected about 1880, and is a wooden structure. The tall square tower is one of the conspicuous landmarks of the town. This is one of the historic societies of the State, and it is hoped that a forthcoming publication may be able to devote the space to it that it deserves.



Lanesville
(Gloucester)



Marblehead



Gloucester

Charlestown

THE "First Universalist Society in Charlestown" was incorporated by the Legislature of the State of Massachusetts in the year 1811, and a "meeting-house" was erected that year upon land purchased by twenty-five men of Charlestown, joined by two who resided across the river in Boston, and by them deeded to the society to be used "for religious purposes only."

The Rev. Abner Kneeland, the first pastor, was installed Sept. 5, 1811, the Rev. Hosea Ballou delivering the discourse, using for his text, "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life." The society was faithful and its growth was healthful. The primitive "meeting-house" became a church, which later on was provided with galleries, organ, tower and bell, and finally "practically rebuilt,—the walls were carried up and the present room for the Sunday School provided in the basement," at an expense of over \$16,000.

The affairs of the society have always been ably and faithfully administered, and term of service has distinguished many officials. Hon. Richard Frothingham was chairman of the Standing Committee from 1848 to 1879, and Hon. Timothy Thompson Sawyer a member of the committee for nearly fifty years, fifteen of which he served as chairman. Four of the present officials of the church have over twenty years of service to their credit. The pastors have been: Revs. Abner Kneeland, Edward Turner, Calvin Gardner, Walter Balfour, John Samuel Thompson, Linus S. Everett, Thomas F. King, Edwin H. Chapin, Thomas Starr King, Thos. J. Sawyer, Robert Townley, Alexander G. Laurie, Oscar F. Safford, William T. Crowe, Charles F. Lee, Gideon I. Keirn, Wm. M. Kimmell.

Second Universalist Society

Boston

THE Second Universalist Society of Boston was organized November, 1817, and a building was erected on School street. In 1873 the present building on Columbus avenue was erected. Membership is about 500. The edifice is constructed of New England granite and seats 1,200. The present pastor is Rev. Stephen Herbert Roblin, D.D., taking charge of the parish Jan. 1, 1892. Superintendent is David L. Rand. The society owns a business block on School street on the old church site, valued at \$800,000, and the church building is free from debt. The church has had but three pastors since its organization, and their pastorates overlap each other several years. It is the leading parish of this denomination in New England, and one of the foremost in the country. Its gifts to missions and education amount to upwards of \$1,000,000.



Charlestown.



Second Universalist
Boston.

Beverly

THE First Universalist Society of Beverly, Mass., was organized in the early part of 1845. Its first edifice stood on Thorne-dike street, close to City Hall. The present edifice on Judson street was built in 1894. There are at present 150 families in the parish; a Sunday School of 315 members; the Ballou Club, a social organization of 136 members; Ladies' Aid and other societies usually found in an up-to-date church.

The present pastor is the Rev. Almon Hoyt, B.D., who began his work Jan. 1, 1905. The efficient superintendent of the Sunday School is Miss Nellie Fegan. Beverly is a growing city, and the First Universalist Church does not intend to linger in the rear of the procession.

Amesbury

THE Amesbury church is a large wooden building of modern design, and was erected in 1871. It is valued in excess of \$10,000.



Beverly



Amesbury

West Gloucester

THE Second (or West) Parish of Gloucester was incorporated in 1716, the church building having been erected some years previous. At the annual parish meeting, March, 1830, a vote was passed by which the parish became one of the Universalist denomination, its first pastor, Rev. William A. Stickney, taking charge in that year. In 1846 the old building was taken down, some of its timbers being used in building a hall which was occupied by the society until, during the pastorate of Rev. Elmer F. Pember, the present building was built in 1875, and dedicated March, 1876. Among other pastors was Rev. Geo. J. Sanger from 1884 to 1897. The society is now in charge of Rev. William H. Ryder, D.D., of Gloucester. A Sabbath School was early established and reorganized about 1865. Mrs. Maria H. Bray was superintendent for many years. The present superintendent is Mrs. Ruth A. Ireland. A bell was placed in the tower of the church in the Spring of 1905.

Danvers

UNIVERSALISM in Danvers had a beginning at the period of the war for independence. Several believers are named who belong to that date. When John Murray came he found many friends. An organization to support preaching was effected in 1815. The permanent organization is dated 1829. The first building was erected in 1832-3. Rev. Hosea Ballou, 2d, preached the sermon of dedication. The present edifice was dedicated Aug. 18, 1859, the pastor, Rev. J. W. Putnam, preached the sermon. The pastors have been: F. A. Hodgdon, D. D. Smith, H. H. Knapp, S. Brimblecorn, A. A. Davis, S. C. Buckley, J. W. Hanson, J. W. Putnam, H. C. Delong, G. J. Sanger, H. P. Forbes, F. A. Dillingham, W. S. Williams, C. B. Lynn, W. H. Trickey, E. Reifsniller, and the present incumbent, E. M. Grant.

Middleton

THE Middleton church is a small wooden structure. It served but a small parish and services have not been held in it very recently. It is valued at about \$1,500.



Middleboro



Danvers



West Gloucester

First Universalist Church

Medford

THE church was organized in 1831 (but three churches in the city being older), by some of Medford's most honored citizens. The church edifice is centrally located near Medford Square on Forest street, the finest avenue in the city, and nearly opposite the spacious grounds of the high school. The original structure has been enlarged and improved from time to time until today it is a well-equipped church. Its auditorium, seating about three hundred, is cheerful and worshipful; its vestry and ante-rooms have a homelike appearance; and its kitchen, a recent gift of Mr. D. W. Lawrence, is perhaps the best appointed in the city. Adjoining the church is a fine parsonage, also the gift of the same friend.

The church has been served by a long line of able ministers, the most famous among them being the Rev. Hosea Ballou, D.D., afterwards president of Tufts College. The present pastor, the Rev. Clarence L. Eaton, was ordained to the work of the Christian ministry in this church in March, 1899, and has therefore nearly completed his seventh year of service. Under his ministry the congregation has been steadily growing. The church is noted for its fine social spirit and its people have ever been known in all good works.

Medford Hillside

THIS is an attractive little cottage church pleasantly located among the Hillside residences. The first steps towards the organization of the society were taken Dec. 14, 1895, resulting in meetings being commenced in a private house in January, 1896. The church building was dedicated in November, 1897. The Rev. B. F. Eaton was called as pastor early in 1897, and the present pastor, Rev. Theodore A. Fischer, was installed June 19, 1899. The church has a nice organ; a bell, the gift of interested persons.

The church membership is nearly 100, about 200 families in the parish, about 295 enrolled in the Sunday School; 95 in the Y.P.C.U., and 75 in the Junior. The Sunday-school superintendent is Mr. E. B. Dennison.

This year occurred the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the first gathering.



First Universalist
Medford.



Medford Hillside.

South and West Acton

THESE two churches may appropriately be called "Twins." They were organized at the same time (1858), and have employed the same pastors almost uninterruptedly until the present time. The "Comradeship" has been close and cordial. The present church in West Acton was built in 1868, and the one in South Acton in 1887. Rev. J. M. Usher was the organizer and the first pastor, remaining in charge six years. Following him were Revs. Edwin Davis, eight years; W. N. Harvard, three years; N. P. Smith; I. C. Knowlton, seventeen years; Hiram Smith; W. F. Dusseult, eight years; and F. S. Rice, the present pastor. While the church and parish membership is small, the churches are very active and vigorous, and exercise much influence in the community. They may be regarded as models of village churches, conducting the various enterprises undertaken with promptness and systematic order. Both churches are out of debt, a desirable state of things brought about during the present pastorate. Perfect harmony prevails in both the councils and the work of the societies. The regular attendants of both churches include many of the most substantial citizens.

Gardner

IN 1864, Rev. Jacob Baker, while acting as Universalist State Missionary, began preaching the distinctive doctrine of Universalism, in Gardner. On the 4th of June of the same year, a society was formed. Land was given for the site of the present church by William S. Lynde, and the church was completed in the Spring of 1874, under the charge of a building committee consisting of Ezra Osgood, Benjamin M. Carruth and Amos W. Goodnow. The church has had as pastors, Revs. Jacob Baker, Harrison Clossen, R. T. Sawyer, E. A. Read, Wm. Barber, Taylor, Hiram Smith, Elmer Felt, Ralph Connor, Frank T. Sweet, A. J. Torsleff and Lucy A. Milton, the last pastorate having begun in September, 1902.



So. Acton.

Wardner

South Weymouth

THE South Weymouth church, situated on the main street in the center of the village, was built in 1850. It is a neat wooden structure, and the entrance is attractively lined with handsome shade trees. The present pastor is Rev. L. W. Attwood. Mr. Gordon Willis is superintendent of the Sunday School.

First Universalist Church

Weymouth

BUILDING is of wood, dedicated in 1838, and situated in the center of the village. The surrounding drooping elms make the view a pretty summer scene. The parish includes about 100 families, and there is a large Sunday School. Rev. M. S. Nash is pastor.



South Weymouth



First Weymouth

Virginia Street Church

Boston

THE Virginia Street Church was built in 1896, at a cost of \$36,000, by the Upham's Corner Universalist Society, and is located on Virginia street near Dudley street.

The material is brick and the style of architecture the Italian Renaissance, copied from a chapel in Italy. The auditorium seats about five hundred, and there is a gallery in the rear which will accommodate one hundred more. A feature of the church is the arrangement of the pulpit in the style of a Roman porch, with a semi-circle of columns. Beneath the auditorium are the Sunday-school rooms, a kitchen, ladies' parlor and library. The church has had three pastors: Rev. C. A. Knickerbocker, Rev. Leslie Moore and Rev. W. S. Perkins, D.D.



Virginia St.
Dorchester



Interior

Marion

SOCIETY was formed about 1828, meetings being held in schoolhouses and homes of sympathizers, most frequently in the home of Capt. N. E. Bates. Services were conducted from time to time by Rev. Nathaniel Stacy, David Pickering, James Bugby, Rev. Hosea Ballou and others. The first settled ministry was begun by the settlement of Rev. Robert Killum, who was engaged to preach one Sunday in each month. In 1832, the first meeting-house was built. The structure stands on the southwest corner of Main and Pleasant streets, and has been remodeled from time to time so that it now comprises a neat audience-room seating 250 persons, a convenient dining-room and kitchen, furnace room and a beautiful Sunday-school room with apartments for library and class rooms.

Among those who have ministered to the parish, Rev. H. C. Vose deserves to be mentioned as having been called by the society to three separate settlements. The parish may be regarded as in fairly prosperous condition, its membership comprising some 50 families. All pews of the church are free. Current expenses are promptly met. The society has a permanent fund arising from bequests amounting to \$3,000. Rev. J. Frank Rhoades is the present pastor.

Mattapoissett

THE parish was organized about 1828. The original record having been lost, the exact date cannot be definitely ascertained. The meeting-house was built and dedicated in 1836, and was built by Nathan Cannon, who chartered a schooner, went to Maine and selected the lumber for this definite purpose. At the time it was said to have been the finest cargo of lumber ever brought to this port. The total cost of the structure was \$2,000. The building stands on the west corner of Barstow and Church streets. Existing records show that in April, 1842, the church was painted and the lot fenced. It is pretty well settled that the 20 or 25 persons who signed the original compact paid for the building of the church. As the building stands today (1906) it is a substantial edifice, newly painted and shingled, with a good pipe organ, the generous gift of Mr. George Purington, Jr., costing about \$300.

Among the early preachers we find the names of Revs. St. Clair, Theodore K. Taylor, H. W. Morse, Cleveland, Henry C. Vose, Thomas Borden, Joseph Crehore. The present pastor is Rev. J. Frank Rhoades. The parish is not large in numbers at the present date, but it includes a fair proportion of the wealth, intelligence and philanthropy of the town, and promises to remain for another century as one of the important religious factors and forces in this community.

Hingham

THE Hingham church is a wooden building located but a short distance from the railroad station and on the line of the electric. The religious body was organized Nov. 1, 1823. The corner-stone of the church was laid May 18, 1829. The church was dedicated Sept. 9, 1829, Rev. Hosea Ballou preaching the sermon, and the other clergymen who officiated being Revs. Hosea Ballou 2d, Sylvanus Cobb, Sebastian Streeter, Russell Streeter and L. S. Everett. The parish since its organization has had as pastors: J. P. Atkinson, A. A. Folsom, T. J. Greenwood, J. F. Dyer, Samuel A. Davis, J. H. Farnsworth, J. W. Talbot, M. M. Preston, Albert Case, J. D. Cargill, E. Partridge, J. E. Davenport, Phoebe A. Hanaford, D. P. Livermore, Merrill C. Ward and Geo. A. Gay. Rev. M. C. Ward and Rev. Phoebe Hanaford were ordained to the ministry in this church.



The First Parish Church

Malden

THE parish of Malden (then spelled Mauldon) was separated from Charlestown in 1649, and the following year the now historically famous Marmaduke Mathews became the first settled pastor of the town. In 1828 the parish became Universalist, with Rev. Sylvanus Cobb of Waterville, Maine, as its first pastor. The list of pastors from the time of registry under the Universalist banner is as follows: Sylvanus G. Cobb, 1828-37; John G. Adams, 1837-53; D. P. Livermore, 1853-55; W. C. Brooks, 1856-57; T. J. Greenwood, 1858-65; Thomas Gorman, 1865; J. F. Powers, 1866-71; Wm. Bell, 1872-73; W. H. Ryder, 1873-82; George Babbitt, 1884-86; W. F. Dusseault, 1887-95; J. F. Albion, 1896. As far as known there have been four meeting-houses erected by the Malden Parish. The first in 1649, the third in 1730, on or near the site now in use, and the fourth (which is the body of the present building) was completed in 1802 and dedicated in January, 1803. The cost was between \$7,000 and \$8,000. It had two cupolas, in one of which Timothy Dexter, a native of Malden, placed a large bell. The cupolas were removed in 1824, and a steeple of four tiers erected. 1836 the galleries were removed and a floor put in, supplying the present church auditorium with three rooms below. 1857 the steeple was taken down and the present tower substituted, the organ being installed at that time. A movement is now nearing culmination to provide an entire new building and it seems likely that within a short time the First Parish of Malden will worship in a new up-to-date church, the fifth to be erected by the parish.

Wayside Mission

Malden

THIS neat little wooden structure was dedicated in 1891, and occupies one of the most beautiful sites in the city, standing on the brow of a steep elevation, commanding a fine view of the surrounding country. It is under the direct charge of Mrs. E. M. Bruce.



Wayside Mission
Malden



First Malden

New Bedford

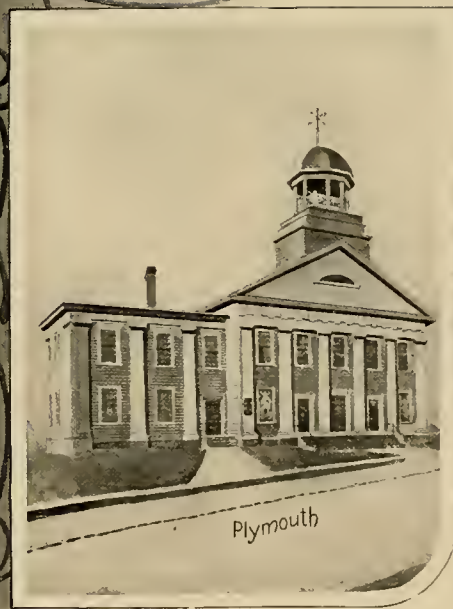
IN 1833 twenty men organized a religious society under the name of "The First Universalist Society of New Bedford." This society had a short life. In 1836 another society was organized under the same name with Rev. John M. Spear as pastor. This society lived thirteen years and built a meeting-house on the corner of Fifth and School streets. In 1849, this house was sold to the Catholics and the society disbanded. But it was hard for the spirit of Universalism to stay killed. In 1851, a meeting was held and Rev. Hiram Van Campen was called as pastor. During his pastorate the Winchester profession was adopted, and the present meeting-house was built in 1855, costing \$10,000. It was paid for by the following ten men, each contributing \$1,000: James Hammett, Wright Brownell, William H. Seabury, Benjamin Almy, Nathaniel S. Purrington, Andrew G. Hayes, Nathaniel B. Hall, John P. Knowles, Slocum Allen, Perry Brownell. The late Hosea Knowlton once wrote—"These men were not great capitalists, but every-day working men who wanted a church. They saw the only way religion could be supported was by personal sacrifice, and they made it." In 1902 the children of John P. Knowles gave the church a beautiful organ as a memorial to their father. In 1904, the meeting-house was renovated and made beautiful with hardwood finish throughout, new pews and five Memorial windows. These repairs were made possible largely through the generosity of Mrs. John P. Knowles, Jr.

Plymouth

THE present church was erected in 1826, by the First Universalist Parish of Plymouth, then just organized. Previous to that ardent Universalists had been holding meetings wherever they could secure quarters. In 1895, a parish-house was erected as an addition to the church. It is two stories in height, lower floor containing a large auditorium, with stage and dressing rooms, and also a ladies' parlor. These are used as Sunday-school rooms Sundays, and for meetings, entertainments, etc., through the week. The upper floor comprises a large banquet room and commodious kitchen. When the parish house was erected the old-fashioned pews were taken out of the church and replaced by more modern ones. The old pew ends were utilized in panel-work around the church interior. The church is located on the southern end of Cole's hill, the first burying ground of the Pilgrims. In digging for the foundations of the parish house several human bones were exhumed. There is an approximate society membership of 125 families. The popularity of the church is not so great as in its first days when as has been a common experience with many other of the South Shore and Cape Cod churches it was the leading and most flourishing church of the town. But it is now regaining some of that popularity. The Sunday-school superintendent is Mrs. Anna E. Bowditch, under whose efficient administration the Sunday School has been greatly helped and increased.



New Bedford



Plymouth

Church of Our Father Spencer

THE Spencer church is a brick structure, erected in 1883, and the church property has a value of about \$17,000. Nearly 125 families are included in the parish, and about 90 in the church membership. Rev. T. B. T. Fisher is the present (1906) pastor.

North Orange

WHILE the North Orange building is not the longest of those we present in the Universalist service, it is we believe the oldest structure, it having been erected and commenced service as a place of worship as a Congregationalist church in 1781. At a later date it came into the possession of those of the Universalist faith and has since continued as a place of worship of that denomination. The building is of wood, is a two-story structure containing a hall as well as the church auditorium. Rev. L. L. Greene is the pastor.

Bethany Universalist Church South Framingham

BETHANY UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, situated in the center of South Framingham on Franklin street, but two minutes' walk from railroad and all electric road terminals, is one of the most active churches of this thrifty and rapidly growing railroad center. Rich in good works, liberal in all faith and politics, it is shedding a large amount of light, the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ, abroad in the community.

It is young in years but its members by an unusual amount of harmony and activity have made for it a standing of much honor and influence. Rev. H. W. Carr is its present pastor.

Church of Our Father
Spencer



North Orange



Bethany Church
So Framingham



Third Universalist Church

Somerville

THE Third Universalist Parish of Somerville was founded in 1881, and contains about 175 families. The church edifice, erected in 1884, is located on the corner of College and Morrison Avenues, in the West Somerville district. It has a pleasant auditorium, vestry and social parlors, and a fine organ. The church organization was perfected in 1886, and the present membership is 120. The list of settled pastors is: Rev. Charles A. Skinner, Rev. Charles Macomber Smith, D.D., Rev. Thomas Edward Potterton, and the present pastor, Rev. William Couden. This church is an active, growing one and is made up of faithful and efficient workers. The Sunday School is large and flourishing, and for a number of years it has been under the superintendency of Mr. F. Ellwood Smith, who is prominently connected with the Edison Lighting Company of Boston.

Winter Hill Universalist Church

Somerville

THIRTY-FIVE charter members made the organization at its incorporation, June 10, 1879, and Rev. E. H. Capen, D.D., president of Tufts College, preached the first sermon. In October, 1879, Rev. W. A. Start, Secretary of Massachusetts Universalist Convention, assumed charge. In the month of June, 1880, the Rev. R. P. Bush of Everett, was secured as acting pastor, and continued in charge till January, 1888. The first regular resident pastor of the parish was Rev. I. P. Coddington, who took up his work in September, 1888, and continued his work until he was called to Rochester, New York, in December, 1898. He was succeeded by Rev. Charles Legal, who served the church for four years. In September, 1903, the present incumbent, Rev. Francis A. Gray, assumed charge of the pastorate. In October, 1904, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the incorporation of the society was observed with religious services and a banquet. The church enters upon its second quarter of a century with enthusiasm, consecration, and resolution to do its full part in making the community Christian and righteous. Our motto: "Our Purpose: To serve God and the human race."



West Somerville.



Somerville,
(Winter Hill.)

Mt. Washington Universalist Church

Haverhill

THE Mt. Washington Church is a brick structure with brown stone trimmings, and stands on corner of Washington and Gilbert streets. The interior is finished in white pine, has an auditorium seating 300, a lecture-room opening into auditorium by partitions that roll up into wall, and seating 40 more, and a gallery at one side of the auditorium that will accommodate 75.

The church was erected in 1892, during the pastorate of Rev. A. Ross. The cost, including land, was \$18,000. Three pastors have presided over its destinies: Rev. A. Ross, Rev. Allen Brown and Rev. Albert White, the present pastor. About 100 families are represented in church and parish. The church has had some misfortunes, a large debt which has been partly liquidated, and is now on a better footing than ever before. Charles Nason is the president of the parish, a very efficient and faithful servant, who is ably assisted by a board of trustees consisting of John R. Proctor, George Moss, Joseph Joyce, Charles Lewes, Frank Frost and Clinton R. Thom. The Sunday School is small but growing and the congregations are increasing in numbers and efficient workers.

First Haverhill

THIS handsome brick structure was erected in 1894, and is valued, with other church property, at over \$60,000. It is a thoroughly up-to-date church building, with an auditorium suitable for the large congregation, the parish numbering about 260 families. Rev. L. M. Powers is the pastor.



Mt. Washington Universalist,
Haverhill.



First
Haverhill.

Granville

IN the southwestern part of the State stands the Granville church, a modest and neat wooden building. The church was formerly used jointly by Methodists and Universalists, though built by the latter, but owing to deaths and removals the former alone have held services for a short time past. It stands in a beautiful location, and is best reached by a nine-mile drive from Westfield. The few Universalists now residing in the town take pride in keeping the church property in good repair as against the time when conditions may warrant again opening the doors for the preaching of the doctrine of universal salvation in this pretty village of the Berkshire hills.

Hardwick

OUR picture gives an excellent idea of the Hardwick church, which stands on a little knoll near the center of that attractive country village. It is a pretty church and the surroundings are very tasty and attractive. At present services are held only in summer months. This church is best reached from Gilbertville, whence it is a pleasant walk or drive over an excellent road. Gilbertville is easily reached by trolley.

Cheshire

ANOTHER of the neat wooden churches of the western portion of the State, erected about 1849. Cheshire is reached from North Adams, and the pastor of that town usually conducts the services.



Granville



Cheshire



Hardwick

Quincy

THE First Universalist Church of Quincy was organized in 1830, with 29 members. After calling Rev. Wm. Morse to be their pastor, under his leadership they began the work of raising funds to build a suitable edifice. In this they were successful, and the church located on its present site at the corner of Washington street and Elm place was dedicated Dec. 12, 1832. The cost of the property was \$5,000. With the usual vicissitudes the society continued to prosper, and about 1872 a parsonage was built on the lot in the rear of the church, fronting Elm place. More recently the church has been remodeled at an expense of \$9,000, and is now a good type of modern church architecture with commodious vestry, parlor and kitchen on the first floor, and an auditorium of 350 sittings on the second floor. There are no galleries, the windows are of cathedral glass and the ceiling is finished in semi-circular form. The organ and choir loft are at the side, and on a level with the pulpit platform, making the whole interior effect agreeable and artistic.

North Weymouth

THE "Third Universalist Society in Weymouth" was organized Nov. 19, 1853. Of the 22 original members only one, Mr. Wilmot Cleverly, is still living. March, 1855, Rev. Mr. Killam was engaged at \$6 a Sabbath half the time for a year, and remained until 1858. A deed of land at the corner of Sea and Bridge streets, North Weymouth, was acquired May 16, 1855. March, 1859, Augustus Beals was chosen clerk, which office he held until his death, in 1893. In 1871 a committee reported a plan of the building: one at a cost of \$3,750, the other \$4,200. In 1872 the society voted to build a chapel the cost not to exceed \$3,500. The committee was later authorized to extend the vote by a sum not exceeding \$1,000, making a total of \$4,500. Ground was broken Sept. 18, 1872, and the chapel finished and dedicated Jan. 17, 1873. In 1878, at an expense of more than \$1,100, an addition was made to the chapel and the vestry finished by E. S. Beals. Rev. Anson Titus, Jr., was pastor 1878-9, and Rev. E. A. Perry of Quincy succeeded him. He was followed by Revs. R. T. Sawyer, 1882-4; B. F. Eaton, 1885-93; J. D. Morrison and Rev. Edward Morris. Electric lights were installed by the Ladies' Sewing Circle in 1896. In 1897 a fund to be known as the "Beals Fund" was left in trust for the parish by E. S. Beals, the income of same being available each year. Rev. Edward Morris resigning in 1898, Rev. Judson P. Marvin succeeded him, and he was in turn succeeded by the present pastor, Rev. Melvin S. Nash, in 1900. In 1902 an organ was given as a memorial to Elias S. Beals and his wife, by their children, providing the parish would provide suitable accommodations for and have the same played. This generous offer having been accepted, the church was enlarged and refurnished at a cost of about \$800. The memorial organ was dedicated Jan. 29, 1903. The fiftieth anniversary of the organization of the society was celebrated during the week commencing Nov. 15, 1903. In 1904 a fund was left in trust to the parish by Lewis A. Beals.



Newtonville

THE Newtonville church is built of stone, was erected in 1872, and the pastor is the Rev. A. Hammatt. This is one of the few active parishes in the State in which the number of church members is returned as exceeding the number of families included in the parish, indicating a remarkable thoroughness of organization and zeal in the church service. The church property is valued in excess of \$20,000.

Melrose

THE Melrose church, an attractive wooden building, was erected in 1886. Rev. H. Marshall is the pastor. A special feature of this church building is the beautiful window so plainly shown in the picture. The building is conveniently located and the parish includes nearly 200 families. The Sunday School numbers about 150. Value of church property is about \$20,000.



Newtonville



Melrose

First Universalist

Lynn

THE First Universalist Society in Lynn was organized Mar. 25, 1833, and Rev. Josiah C. Waldo engaged as pastor. The first meeting-house on Union street was dedicated Dec. 10, 1835, and Mr. Waldo was installed as pastor. He resigned in 1838, and Rev. Lemuel Willis commenced his labors as pastor May 15, 1839. Rev. H. G. Smith was installed pastor May 18, 1843; Rev. Merritt Sanford came Jan. 18, 1845; Rev. Darwin Matt commenced his labors July 23, 1848; Rev. Elbridge G. Brooks became pastor November, 1850, and remained until October, 1859, and was succeeded by Rev. Sumner Ellis, March, 1860. Rev. Charles Wesley Biddle was installed pastor in December, 1863, and remained seventeen years. During Mr. Biddle's pastorate the old church was remodeled, the society continued to increase under his pastorate, and the new stone church was built on Nahant street and dedicated in September, 1872. Mr. Biddle resigned in 1880, and John Coleman Adams became the next pastor, and remained four years. Rev. James Minton Pullman, D.D., preached his first sermon April 12, 1885, and continued until his death, Nov. 22, 1903. Rev. Henry Blanchard, D.D., occupied the pulpit for one year and the present pastor, Rev. Frederic W. Perkins, was installed March 14, 1905. The parish has the largest membership of any Universalist parish in the State.

Second Universalist

Lynn

THE following is the record of the first meeting of what is now the Second Universalist Parish of Lynn:

Agreeably to public notice according to law a meeting was holden at the house of Mr. John F. Cook for the purpose of organizing the second Universalist Society. Votes were received by J. C. Stickney, Esq., justice of peace, for clerk. Whole number of votes of which were eighteen. Necessary for choice, ten. E. W. Mudge had eighteen and was declared chosen and duly sworn by Mr. Stickney. Meeting was called to order, votes called for Moderator. Whole number of votes given were eighteen. Nathaniel Y. Culbertson was unanimously chosen. Voted that a committee be chosen to select a list of candidates for officers for the society the ensuing year. Voted that this committee be composed of three individuals. Voted that E. W. Mudge, John F. Cook, Calley Newhall, be that committee. Voted that the number of trustees be left with that committee. After the committee had reported votes were received for the list of the officers, each receiving nineteen votes and were declared elected. Calley Newhall, treasurer; Daniel Walden, cl.; John Woodburn, Nathaniel Y. Culbertson, Moses W. Wilson, Ezekiel H. Allen, John F. Cook, trustees. Voted that a committee of five be appointed to report a constitution and by-laws at the adjourned meeting. Voted that E. F. Tainter, William Guttererson, George H. Breed, D. K. Millitt and Calley Newhall, be that committee. Voted that this meeting be adjourned to meet at John F. Cook's house, Commercial street, Wednesday evening, Mar. 16, 1836.

The present meeting-house is a wooden structure and was dedicated in 1882.



First Universalist
Lynn.



Second Universalist
Lynn.

Orange

THE church at Orange is a comparatively new building, having been erected in 1890. It is a two-story wooden structure, with an elegantly-designed spire. The parish consists of about 275 families, and the Sunday School numbers about 270. Rev. P. A. Allen, Jr., is the pastor, and the church property is valued at about \$30,000.

Norwell

THE Norwell church is a pretty, modest wooden edifice, erected in 1894. The parish comprises about 50 families.

Webster

THE first Universalist Society of Webster was partially organized in April, 1861, but did not become a legal body until June, 1866. The first pastor, Rev. George J. Sanger, began his work in 1864. During his pastorate the present church building was erected and was dedicated as "The Church of the Redeemer," Aug. 21, 1867. Rev. J. W. Keyes followed Mr. Sanger as pastor of the church. During his pastorate his wife died and was buried in the Webster cemetery, and in after years his body was laid beside her. Mrs. Eliza Tucker Wilkes supplied the church for some months during 1873. Rev. J. H. Moore was pastor from 1874 to Spring of 1878. Rev. J. F. Simmons came in the Fall of 1878, remaining until the Spring of 1885. Rev. E. W. Preble, after a pastorate of eight years, resigned Jan. 1, 1895. March 10, 1895, Rev. N. S. Hill began his labors, remaining until April, 1898. Rev. Clarence Ball was the next pastor, leaving in January, 1903. Sept. 1, the same year, Rev. W. G. Schoppe became pastor of the church.



Hyde Park

THE Universalist Church of Hyde Park was built in 1895, and is located on Arlington street. It is a very attractive addition to the community. The auditorium is in excellent taste and the furnishings are of solid oak. The organ is of ample power and fine quality of tone. Its simple and impressive lines and soft coloring make it an effective feature of the interior. The seating capacity is 300. The vestry is in the basement. It is comfortably furnished with chairs, a good modern piano and everything needed on the platform. There is a library, two ante-rooms, kitchen, toilet and a furnace room. The whole building is lighted with electricity. The church is very attractive, thoroughly equipped and very convenient. Pastor, Rev. William F. Dusseault : Superintendent Sunday School, Mr. F. B. Hodgdon.

Norwood

ORGANIZED Universalism in Norwood dates from Sept. 8, 1827, when a paper was circulated among the people of South Dedham looking to the formation of a parish. Fifty-two signatures were obtained, and Oct. 22 the organization was perfected. Rev. J. C. Waldo was the first pastor, and a house of worship was built on the lot where the Catholic church now stands, and dedicated Jan. 14, 1830. Rev. Thomas Whittemore preached the dedication sermon, Rev. Hosea Ballou offering prayer. Among the early pastors were Rev. Rufus Pope, who was the first man to publicly strike a blow for temperance in South Dedham, and Rev. Edwin Thompson, who began his pastorate in 1840, and whose name as an apostle of temperance was long a household word in Norfolk County and throughout the State. In 1855, Rev. Ebenezer Fisher became pastor. At a meeting held Mar. 9, 1863, it was voted to sell the old meeting-house and build a new one. The property was purchased in the interests of the Catholics of the town, and with a few additions it is the Catholic church there today. The new church was built at the corner of Washington and Nahatan streets, Rev. M. B. Leonard being the pastor at the time. It was dedicated Feb. 11, 1864. Rev. George Hill succeeded Mr. Leonard, Feb. 3, 1865, and was pastor for seventeen years. Rev. W. C. Selleck succeeded Mr. Hill and was followed by Rev. G. I. Keim in 1884. Nov. 19 of this year the church was burned. The society immediately took action to erect a new building, and Sept. 21, 1885, the corner-stone of the present structure was laid, the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons assisting. Rev. Dr. H. R. Nye was the next pastor, and was followed by Rev. Charles Nickerson, in whose pastorate the mortgage on the church was canceled. Rev. W. B. Eddy served the church for eleven years and was succeeded in December, 1903, by the present pastor, Rev. Elliot B. Barber. The church is a beautifully designed stone structure, has a bell and clock in the tower, and is one of the chief objects of pride of the village. A "Boys' Camp" is one of the features connected with the church work.



Hyde Park



Norwood

First Cambridge

THE First Universalist Church of Cambridge stands immediately facing the City Hall of that city, and is especially noticeable for its tall and graceful spire. It is a wooden structure, erected in 1882, and the parish includes over 200 families. It has a large Sunday School, and the church property is valued at about \$55,000. Rev. G. W. Bicknell is now (1905) the pastor.

East Cambridge

THE East Cambridge Church building, a neat, plain wooden structure, is located in more of a resident section than the parent church. While the church membership is smaller it is not less devoted or energetic. The building was erected about 1866. The pastor of the First Church also administers to this parish at this writing.



East Cambridge.



First Cambridge.

Rockport

THE present church was erected in 1878 and is valued at about \$5,000. About eighty families are included in the parish.

Pigeon Cove

THIS is a neat, pleasant appearing wooden building dedicated in 1874. There are about 70 families in the parish. Church property is valued at about \$6,500. Rev. R. H. Cheever is the pastor.

Rowley

THIS is a wooden building erected in 1878. The parish is quite small and there is, at present, no settled pastor.



Church of Our Father South Boston

THE church is located at 540 East Broadway, and was dedicated in 1870. It is a modest wooden building valued at about \$12,000. This society is one of those noticeable for the church membership exceeding the number of families enrolled in the parish, there being about 100 of the latter to nearly 150 of the former. There is a quite large Sunday School and Young People's organization. Rev. R. H. Dix is pastor.

All Souls' Universalist Church East Boston

IS located on White street. It is a rather peculiar wooden structure, and was dedicated in 1891. The parish comprises about 160 families, and there is a very large Sunday School. Rev. F. W. Sprague is the pastor.



Second Springfield

THIS church was started as a missionary branch of St. Paul's Church during the pastorate of Rev. Charles Conklin. In January, 1898, the meetings were held in Steel's Hall, corner Bay and Princeton streets. The small room, which held about 100 people, was so crowded it soon became apparent that other quarters must be provided for this mission. In the second year of its existence the present edifice was built on the corner opposite to the hall. The property is valued at \$10,000.

Third Springfield

THIS church is situated at the corner of North and Waverly streets, in the midst of a beautiful residential section. It is the result of a mission established by Rev. Charles Conklin in a store on North Main street in the year 1898.

The society has been prosperous since the beginning, and the church interior is very cozy and homelike. The membership of the parish is made up almost entirely of families residing in the vicinity of the church. The property is worth about \$10,000.



Third Springfield



Second Springfield

Hortonville

A NEAT little chapel is the house of worship in Hortonville, a town near Swansea not far from the Rhode Island line. This place is reached by stage from Swansea, or the electric between Fall River and Providence run within about a mile. There had been no services for some time preceding the summer of 1905, when a few were held. The building is neat and in good condition, and it is hoped that the way may be soon made plain to resume regular religious worship. The picture gives a good idea of the structure.

Saugus

THIS neat little edifice, with a seating capacity of 200 or more, is situated on the Main street in the historic town of Saugus, which was settled in 1629. The population of the town is about 6,500. This parish has a very interesting history, dating back to 1737, when it was known as the Third Parish of Lynn. It was in 1832 that it was voted by the majority that the Universalist doctrine should be preached, and those who considered this a dangerous doctrine withdrew and formed an Orthodox parish. The present building was erected in 1860.

Shirley

THE church in Shirley is a large wooden building, well-designed and presenting a fine exterior, situated in a commanding position at the angle of two prominent streets. The fate that attends many of our interior Massachusetts towns has somewhat diminished the parish since the dedication in 1869. The church property is valued at about \$11,000. Rev. T. J. Farmer, Jr., is the pastor.



Mansfield

THIS church was dedicated June 25, 1889. There is connected with it a church and parish organization, a church aid, Sunday School, and what is known as "The Fraternity." The church organization is the work of a former pastor, the Rev. Q. H. Shinn, D.D. The Sunday School was started by the late C. S. Frost, a man strong in the Christian faith. Its present superintendent is Mr. Wm. W. Barnes, who is doing effective work in this department. These various organizations are all in a healthy, growing condition and doing excellent work.

During the past few months the interior of the church building has been thoroughly renovated, all the woodwork varnished and new carpets laid in the church aisles. The movement for a church edifice was started and brought to a happy consummation by the Rev. George Hill. "To him," the record says, "untiring in his endeavors and wise in his methods, the happy outcome is largely due." The church is modern, attractive in appearance, with a tower on the corner. The tower contains a fine-toned bell. The building is painted in handsome modern color. The auditorium is 32 x 44 feet and finished in ash. The pews, 40 in number, are of the same. The pulpit and minister's chair are of oak. Both are the gift of a Boston friend. The ladies' parlor opens with folding doors and may be used in connection with the auditorium proper. The building is centrally located on one of the most handsome streets of the town and is easy of access. Around the church are stately shade trees.

Peabody

WHAT is now the town of Peabody was the South Village of Danvers. It was set off as the town of South Danvers in 1855, and its name changed to Peabody in 1868.

The Universalist church of Peabody was organized as the Second Universalist Society of Danvers, and the church edifice was erected in 1832. This building was remodeled in 1867, and in more recent years has been improved. The church edifice, parsonage and other property, are valued at about \$30,000. There are about 150 families, 60 church members, 160 in Sunday School. The town has 13,000 population, and is steadily growing, and presents an ample field for the work of the church.

Foxboro

THE church in Foxboro is a wooden building, built in 1843, located on Bird street, fronting the common, a sightly place. It originally had a spire in addition to the belfry shown, but it was blown off in a severe gale many years ago. There is a bell whose sound is heartily welcomed by the society. There is a vestry in the basement, and the auditorium seats about 200. A church organization was formed in 1865, during the pastorate of Rev. C. A. Bradley.



Foxboro



Mansfield



Peabody

Wakefield

THE Universalist Society of South Reading (now Wakefield), was organized in April, 1813. It had no settled minister for several years, the first pastor being Rev. John C. Newell, who labored two years. In 1839 the society erected a church edifice at an expense of \$5,000. This structure stood until 1859, when it was moved back fifty feet, raised and enlarged, a steeple added, and a vestry for the Sunday School built in the basement, the former vestry having been above the main room or auditorium. The expense of these improvements was about \$6,000.

In July, 1900, the church was badly damaged by fire and water, necessitating quite extensive repairs. The vestry and auditorium were newly painted and frescoed, the organ raised to a level with the pulpit, a minister's room built on the side of the platform opposite the organ, and new furniture in the way of carpets and upholstery supplied.

From 1833 to the present time the church has had 19 pastors, inclusive of Mr. C. Guy Robbins, who is now in charge. The superintendent of the Sunday School is Mr. Arthur B. Ware, Mr. N. E. Cutler having held the office for more than twenty-five years previous to Mr. Ware's election. The church membership is 75 at the present time.

Waltham

THE first organized movement in Waltham began in the fall of 1836. Meetings were held in Bank Hall, corner Main and Lexington streets. The first settled minister was the Rev. Wm. C. Hanscom, who came in the summer of 1837. He died May 23, following, and was succeeded by Rev. Sylvanus Cobb in April; and in July a church was formed with a membership of 33.

In 1839 a church was erected at the corner of Lyman and Summer streets, which was afterwards moved to Main street, where the society worshipped till 1859. About this time the slavery question agitated the society so much that meetings were discontinued and the church was sold. In 1865, the scattered forces regathered and meetings were held in Rumford Hall, with the Rev. Benton Smith as pastor. The present house of worship, which stands on Main street near Grant, was erected in 1880, under the ministry of the Rev. M. R. Leonard, whose pastorate extended from 1871 to 1885. The present pastor is the Rev. Frederick A. Taylor, whose ministry began in January, 1900. The movement has prospered in Waltham. The society has no standing debt, numbers nearly 1000 souls, and is doing creditable work.



Wakefield



Waltham

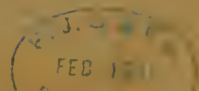


Hyannis

THE new Universalist church in Hyannis is the fourth to be erected in that beautiful village. The first church was erected about 1833. The second was dedicated in 1848. It was struck by lightning and burned in 1873. The third church was dedicated in 1874, and destroyed in the great fire of Dec. 3, 1904. The fourth church was dedicated Nov. 20, 1905, and held its first regular service Dec. 3, 1905.

It was dedicated free of debt, at a cost exceeding \$10,000. It is the church home of about 140 families, among whom are the foremost citizens of the village. A few of its oldest members worshipped as children in the first church. Among its activities is a flourishing Sunday School of 75 members with a kindergarten and cradle-roll departments, an active sewing circle, a Young People's Social Club, and a Knights of King Arthur. The present pastor, Rev. H. L. Buzzell, began his duties July 3, 1904. At present the church is well organized and thoroughly respected in the community.

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